

Amendments to the Claims

1. (original) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of boron-containing fungicide prior to forming said composite product.
2. (currently amended) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of boron-containing fungicide in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.
3. (previously) The method according to claim 1 in which said amount of boron-containing fungicide is in the range of from about 3 to about 5 percent by weight of said composite product.
4. (original) The method according to claim 1 in which said lignocellulosic material is selected from the group consisting of wood, ground rice hulls, kenaf, jute, and coconut shells.
5. (original) The method according to claim 1 in which said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, high-density polyethylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.

6. (original) The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is calcium borate.
7. (canceled)
8. (original) The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a naturally occurring borate.
9. (original) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of nobleite, gowerite, hydroboracite, ulexite and colemanite.
10. (original) The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a synthetic borate.
11. (previously submitted) The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is selected from a group consisting of zinc borate, calcium borate, boric acid, or mixtures thereof.
12. (previously submitted) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is colemanite.
13. (canceled)
14. (previously submitted) The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is zinc borate.
15. (original) The method according to claim 1 in which said lignocellulosic material is wood.

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16. (original) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic

composite products which increase their resistance to fungal attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of boron-containing fungicide prior to forming said composite product.

17. (currently amended) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic

composite products which increase their resistance to fungal attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of boron-containing fungicide in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.

18. (previously submitted) The method according to claim 16 in which said amount of boron-containing fungicide is in the range of from about 0.3 to about 2 percent by weight of said composite product.

19. (canceled)

20. (original) The method according to claim 16 in which said lignocellulosic

material is selected from the group consisting of wood, ground rice hulls, kenaf, jute, and coconut shells.

21. (original) The method according to claim 16 in which said thermoplastic material is

selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, high density polyethylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.

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22. (previously submitted) The method according to claim 16 in which said boron-containing fungicide is calcium borate.
23. (canceled)
24. (previously submitted) The method according to claim 22 in which said calcium borate is a naturally occurring borate.
25. (previously submitted) The method according to claim 24 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of nobleite, gowerite, hydroboracite, ulexite and colemanite.
26. (previously submitted) The method according to claim 22 in which said calcium borate is a synthetic borate.
27. (previously submitted) The method according to claim 16 in which said boron-containing fungicide is selected from a group consisting of zinc borate, calcium borate, boric acid or mixtures thereof.
28. (canceled)
29. (canceled)
30. (original) The method according to claim 16 in which said boron-containing fungicide is boric acid.
31. (original) The method according to claim 16 in which said lignocellulosic material is wood.